
CHESHUNT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1938

by

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.,
M.B., C.M., M.O.H.

and

C. WILSON, Sanitary Inspector.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

Gentlemen,

I have again the pleasure of presenting you my Annual Report of the health of the district. That of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Wilson, is also included. The report, whose lines as usual are indicated by the Ministry of Health, is rather fuller of detail than usual, it being thought beneficial for reference, now or in future years.

Despite the detractions by A.R.P. work, our own work has been kept up to time and programme. I have to thank my fellow officials for the assistance and figures they have given me from their departments.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Cheshunt Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D., M.B., C.M.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Superintendent of the Ambulance and
Refuse Collection Services, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts :

FRANCIS SYKES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.)
(Retired February, 1938),

C. WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4.)
(Appointed 1st March, 1938).

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

S. H. BEYER, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)
(Resigned 30th April, 1938),

J. B. JACKSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)
(Appointed 1st July, 1938).

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
 2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
 3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
 4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.
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Public Health Officers under the Hertfordshire County Council

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :

A. W. P. SMYTH, L.R.C.P. and S.I.

Tuberculosis Centre :

A. P. FORD, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic :

HELEN E. ORMSTEIN, M.D., D.P.H.

Dental Clinic :

G. LEDGER, L.D.S.

Nurses at Welfare Centre :

MISS FRESTON, Queens' Nurse, S.R.N., Cert. Midwife.

MISS FREER, Queens' Nurse, S.R.N., Cert. Midwife.

MISS HUGHES, Cert. Midwife.

MRS. MILTON, Cert. Midwife at Goffs Oak.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

AREA.

The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General reports the population at the middle of the year in Cheshunt as being 16,940. This is an increase of only 320 with an extra 332 houses on the rate book. It makes an average of only 3.34 inhabitants per house.

Number of inhabited houses	}	1936	1937	1938
on the Rate Books ...		4,477	4,741	5,073
Rateable value ...		...	...	£107,872
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£420

Social Conditions and Occupations.

The glasshouse industry continues to be the principal one carried on in the area, though many more new industries are represented in the immigrants of recent years.

The trend of unemployment up to September was normal. From then, due to the international situation, it rose sharply and remained at a high average throughout the winter. The total number of unemployed in June was 220 and at the end of the year 534. The number of unemployed in the glasshouse industry in December was 214 (Males 55 Females 159).

The Public Assistance Committee dealt with 27 unemployment cases during the year. Of these 7 were men, 6 women and 14 children.

Vital Statistics.

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate ...	160	137	297
	{ Illegitimate ...	6	8	14
Still Births	Legitimate ...	4	2	6
Deaths	... ..	94	78	172
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...				18.36
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)				18.92
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...				10.15
Deaths from Puerperal causes—				
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...				0
Deaths from other Puerperal causes ...				1
Death Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)				3.15
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—				
All infants per 1,000 live births				38.59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				37.04
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				71.43
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				19

Deaths from Heart Diseases (all ages) ..	48
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Birth rate ...	13.8	15.7	14.8	18.1	18.36
Death rate ...	9.0	10.7	11.1	10.5	10.15
Infant Death rate	69.3	48.8	42.0	33.2	38.59

CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY.

The year has been on the whole a healthy one. The time came again for another outbreak of measles and this persisted throughout the early months of the year. Scarlet Fever too was in evidence, and this was complicated by a streptococcal form of the disease—which will be referred to in a later paragraph. A mild form of influenza was present at the beginning and end of the year but no deaths were attributed to it.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for the greatest, and an increasing, number of deaths. The number of deaths from pneumonia was altogether disproportionate to the number reported. But there is no doubt failure to notify in many instances.

There is no special disease connected with the chief local industry. It may be remarked here that though they work in great heat, and often in the direct rays of the sun—but through the glass—sunstroke is almost unknown amongst those engaged in glasshouse work.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

				M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	94	78
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0	0

Causes of Death—continued					M.	F.
Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	8	0
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	0	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	0	1
General Paralysis	...	...	...	...	1	0
Cancer	...	...	...	...	10	9
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	3	6
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	24	24
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	7	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	3
Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	0
Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	2	0
Diarrhœa under 2 years	...	...	...	...	0	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	0	2
Cirrhosis of liver, &c.	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other liver diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	3	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	4
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other puerperal diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	3	3
Senility	...	...	...	...	1	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other violence	...	...	...	...	5	4
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	10	7
Ill defined diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diarrhœa over two years	...	...	...	...	0	0

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

1. (i) Public Health Officers.

A list of the Officers is given at the beginning of this Report.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The same arrangements exist as in past years.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is maintained by the Council for the removal of accident and non-infectious cases. No charge for its use is made to residents of the parish to places within a radius of 15 miles of the Ambulance Station, Turners Hill, except in the case of accidents in which motor vehicles are involved. The following table shows the number of occasions on which the Ambulance has been used each year for the past five years.

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Street Accidents	...	40	46	51	37	38
Other cases...	...	93	144	299	396	427
		—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	133	190	350	433	465
		—	—	—	—	—

The use of the ambulance for private cases continues to increase but the numerous calls have, generally speaking, been met without difficulty.

The ambulances of the Hoddesdon and Enfield Urban District Councils, the St. John Ambulance Brigade at Ware and the County Hospital at Hertford may be called upon if necessary.

The service appears to be adequate for the present needs of the area.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The appended list shows the large amount of work done by the District Nurses. The number of Midwifery cases attended is 25 more than last year.

			Cases	Visits
Midwifery (without doctor)	...		52	935
Midwifery (with doctor)	...	...	100	1,946
General	...	...		3,290
Mental Defects	...	...		80
Infant Health	...	...		4,568
Ante-natal	...	...		689
Casuals	...	...		1,710
Tuberculosis	...	...		123
Boarded-out Children	...	...		81
Minor Ailments	...	...		157
Visits to Parents	...	...		374
Attendances at Clinics	...	...		273
Attendances at Schools (heads, etc.)				193

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

This work is done as before at Greenfield House. A new and modern Centre is nearing completion on ground behind the present Centre, and will be much welcomed by the staff and patients. Dr. Ormstein reports the following list of work done at the Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics.

No. of child welfare clinics	...	...	50
No. of children on the books	...	...	441
No. of children's attendances	...	...	3,253
Average attendance	...	...	65
No. of children who had dental treatment	...		35

No. of nursing mothers who had dental treatment.	...	...	...	...	4
Deaths of children attending clinic	}	under 1 year	...	...	1
		over 1 year	...	...	0
No. of children immunized against Diphtheria					15

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

No. of clinics	...	...	...	...	31
No. of expectant mothers on books				...	165
No. of attendances by the mothers				...	639
Average attendance	...	...	...	...	21
No. of expectant mothers referred for dental treatment		...	...	...	10
Post-natal attendances	...	...	...	...	7
No. of deaths amongst expectant mothers attending		...	...	...	1

(e) Hospitals.

There are now no Hospitals directly under the control of the District Council. Sixty-four cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted into the Isolation Hospital of which 34 came from Cheshunt. One case of Infantile Paralysis from Bishops Stortford was also admitted.

AT THE CHESHUNT COTTAGE HOSPITAL.—123 in-patients and 447 out-patients were treated, and 133 operations performed.

(f) Mortuary.

This is situated in the Highway depot at the rear of the Manor House, Turners Hill.

During the year eighteen bodies were received in the Mortuary and nine post-mortem examinations made.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. (i) Water.

Practically the whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board.

The following is an extract from the 32nd Annual Report of the Board:—

“The total average output from the works for the year was 310.79 million gallons per day of which 304.97 was supplied to consumers at an average standard of purity of 99.0%. When it is considered that the Board has no less than 127 works units supplying water from a variety of wells and stations of various types, and that a positive from a station delivering only 0.3 million gallons per day may by a single coli positive in 100 ml. affect this figure, it is clear that throughout the year all stations have been maintained at a 100% standard and a very occasional positive only becomes apparent when season and temperature necessitate readjustment of the chloramine cover. Percentage purity figures of 99.6, 99.3, 98.8 for the Thames, Lee and New River derived waters bear testimony to the efficiency of control of the works and the unceasing meticulous care that is operative.”

There have been no important extensions of mains during the year other than to new housing estates.

One complaint was received regarding deposit in the water. On investigation by the Board this was found to consist of carbonate of lime and traces of rust,

which were quite harmless, and after flushing of the main no further trouble occurred.

A few farms and country houses have private wells.

Following reports from the County Medical Officer of Health regarding unsatisfactory samples of accredited milk from one farm having a private water supply, samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. The samples were reported upon as being unsuitable for drinking, domestic and dairy purposes.

An alternative supply of water was arranged and informal action taken to secure a main water supply to the premises. Further samples of the water were taken and these were reported upon as wholesome.

Negotiations for the extension of the water main were still in progress at the end of the year.

Samples of water from a licensed premises with camping ground attached were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and these were reported upon as unfit for drinking and domestic use. River water was the source of supply.

A pressure filter was installed and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

Considerable extensions by private developers to the sewerage system have taken place owing to new housing development, and during the year new sewers were constructed by the Council in Flamstead End Road (surface water) and Newgate Street Road (soil).

Since the last report the East Middlesex Main Drainage Bill has become law, and Cheshunt is included as a constituent authority in the Main Drainage Scheme.

The existing sewage disposal works, however, are likely to remain in use for some five to seven years, and minor improvements and extensions are being put in hand from time to time.

The Cuffley Brook main drainage scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Health, and it is anticipated that the contract for the work will shortly be let.

This scheme should be in operation in the near future.

The continued building development in the area has brought the need for an early investigation into the surface water sewerage of the district, and this is under consideration.

2. Rivers and Streams.

Following complaints from the Lee Conservancy Board informal action was taken during the year regarding the deposit of rubbish into the Small River Lee. Rivers and streams generally are kept under observation.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Except in the outlying parts of the district closet accommodation is on the water carriage system.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

Two dustless loading Chelsea type freighters, with additional assistance by hired lorries when necessary, were used to maintain a weekly collection of house refuse.

Owing to the continuous increase in the number of houses from which refuse is collected an additional 10-yard freighter was purchased during the year and was put into service in December.

Disposal is entirely by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit.

In April the Council undertook the collection of trade refuse from premises within the whole area of their district at a charge of 3d. per tin for regular collections and 6d. per bin or 10s. 6d. per load for special collections. Little demand has so far been made on this service.

In May a scheme for the salvage of waste paper, bottles, jars, rags, metals and broken white glass was put into operation for a trial period. Householders are requested to bundle waste paper separately and place it on the top of the dustbin and the success of the scheme largely depends upon their co-operation. Further publicity would probably increase the present approximate yield of 36 tons per annum.

The Council do not undertake cesspool cleansing. Facilities are available with the Council's contractors for street gully cleansing whereby owners may make arrangements for periodical cleansing of cesspools.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,829 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow.

The routine work of the department was considerably interrupted by changes in personnel as a result of which the post of additional sanitary inspector was vacant for more than two months.

Although the volume of work throughout the year was heavy, compliance with the requirements of the Public Health and Housing Acts has been secured with little difficulty and recourse to legal proceedings was unnecessary.

Complaints.

One hundred and forty-nine complaints were received during the year relating to the following matters :—

Dampness and other housing defects	...	...	...	71
Defective drains	...	...	...	25
Cesspools	..	..	...	1
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	2
Dirty or verminous premises	...	...	...	6
Tents, vans, sheds	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	...	2
Accumulations	...	...	...	8
Flies, Ants, etc.	...	...	...	4
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	7
Rats and mice	...	...	...	10
Water Supply	...	..	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	1
Noise	...	...	...	3
Smoke	...	...	...	1

The complaints were investigated as early as possible, and where necessary, immediate action was taken to remove the cause of complaint.

Summary of Inspections.

Number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	79
Number of dwelling houses inspected for other than Housing defects	...	...	...	387
Number of premises other than houses inspected	...	...	...	1,144
Premises re-inspected (including Housing)	...	...	...	641
Visits to Works in progress (including Housing)	101

Miscellaneous visits	477
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Total number of visits	...	2,829
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Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to slaughterhouses	796
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	...	...	39
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	3
Visits to fish friers premises	...	...	21
Visits to cowsheds	...	...	57
Visits to dairies	...	...	64
Visits to milkshops	...	...	2
Visits to factories	...	...	14
Visits to outworkers' premises	...	...	7
Visits to schools	...	...	7
Visits to tents, vans and sheds	...	...	81
Visits to Houses-let-in-lodgings	...	...	1
Visits to common lodging-houses	...	...	13
Visits <i>re</i> overcrowding	...	...	183
Visits to Council House applicants	...	...	64
Cases of infectious disease investigated	...	...	35
Disinfections supervised	...	...	61
Smoke observations made	...	...	2
Inspections of urinals and public conveni- ences	...	...	7
Inspections of stables and piggeries	...	...	31
Interviews with owners, tradesmen, etc.	...	...	71
Visits under Petroleum Acts	...	...	45
Visits <i>re</i> collection and disposal of refuse...	...	...	337
Visits <i>re</i> ambulance service	...	...	35
Drains tested	...	...	12

Notices Served.

Informal Notices (written)	101
Statutory Notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance . .	1
Statutory Notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, of Time and Place	21
Statutory Notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936—Demolition Orders	9
Certificates as to Suitable Alternative Accommodation, under Section 68 of the Housing Act, 1936	22
Statutory Notice under Section 66 of the Housing Act, 1936, to abate overcrowding	1
Statutory Notices under Section 157 of the Housing Act, 1936, to enter and survey premises ...	41
Statutory Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, to make premises reasonably fit for human habitation	6
Statutory Notices under Section 168 of the Housing Act, 1936, to require information re—ownership of premises	6
Statutory Notices under Section 155 of the Housing Act, 1936, to quit buildings in Clearance Areas	31
	<hr/> 239 <hr/>

Record of Nuisances Abated and Work Done.

In the following table the sanitary improvements effected as a result of formal or informal action are summarised.

DRAINS.

Repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	20
Partly relaid	...	...	...	6
Additional provided	...	...	...	2

WATER CLOSETS.

Additional provided	...	...	...	1
W.C. cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	4
New pans fixed	3
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	2

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New fixed...	6
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WASTE PIPES, ETC.

New provided	7
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WATER SUPPLY.

Water re-instated or laid on	1
Service pipes and cisterns Repaired, etc.	7

PAVING, ETC.

Yards paved	1
Yard paving repaired	1

DUST RECEPTACLES.

Provided	53
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DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired	8
Eaves Gutters or R.W.P. repaired or renewed	5
External walls pointed or rendered	8

GENERAL.

Windows provided, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
House floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired or renewed...	...	...	...	3
Ranges and coppers renewed	...	...	...	6

Rooms ventilated ...	...	...	...	1
Internal walls and ceilings repaired			...	5
Rooms cleansed ...	...	...	...	13
Flues and chimney stacks repaired	...		...	4
Food stores provided or ventilated	...		...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	51
Obstructive buildings removed		...	...	1
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	5
Caravans removed...	...	...	...	16

Inspection of Factories.

The Factories Act, 1937 which came into operation on 1st July, 1938, extends the duties of local authorities with respect to factories.

The old distinction between a factory and a workshop is abolished and the expression "workshop" disappears.

Local authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act as to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions relating to temperature, cleanliness, overcrowding, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories in which mechanical power is not used.

Outworkers.

During the year seven lists of outworkers were received from Metropolitan Borough Councils. The premises were visited and found to be satisfactory.

1.—INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES for purposes of provisions as to health.
INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	11	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	3	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construc- tion but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	14	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1			
Overcrowding (S.2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...	1		1	
Inadequate ventilation ...	1			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) {	1			
	1			
Other offences ...	2			
Total ...	7		1	

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one common lodging house in the district—91, High Street, Cheshunt—and this was registered during the year.

No casuals are received, but the lodgers occupy one common room within the meaning of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Following informal action prior to registration extensive improvements were carried out, including provision of day room accommodation, new heating and cooking arrangements, improved ventilation, new paving and general repairs.

There are eight beds.

Offensive Trades.

There are no registered offensive trades in the area other than fish fryers of which there are seven establishments.

Statutory action was necessary during the year to effect an improvement in the premises and general cleanliness at one establishment.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

(v) Camping Sites.

(1) The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1938 was eight.

Five of these are permanent gypsy van encampments, which are not used by campers with tents.

- (2) No licences were issued under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936, because the provisions of Section 93 of Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, are in force. Subsection 1 provides that no moveable dwelling shall be placed or kept on any land without the previous consent of the Council. Consent was given during the year in respect of four sites in permanent use for caravans and one site used for tents. At the end of the year applications were received in respect of the other two sites used for tents.
- (3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1938 was as follows :—

Short period campers (tents)	...	128
Permanent Van dwellers	...	160

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

Informal action for the abatement of nuisance from smoke was necessary in one instance only—a factory furnace. Following representations to the owner no further nuisance has occurred.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the area.

The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club—a privately owned pool—is open to the public. It is 150 feet long and 36 feet wide and is supplied by running water from the River Lea. Before entering the bath the water is filtered.

Three samples were taken during the season—in May, July and September—and all were reported upon as being below the desirable standard of purity for a

public swimming pool. In August, following representations to the management, intermittent chlorination of the water was undertaken, and continued until the end of the season.

With a view to improving the standard of purity of the water for the 1939 season the management propose to improve the filter and the arrangements for chlorination in accordance with technical advice.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

		Council houses	Other houses
(1)	Number of houses found to be infested 	7	5
	Number of houses disinfested	7	5
(2)	These have been disinfested by zaldecide applied by spray. In addition, the bedding was treated by steam in five of the cases.		
(3)	To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses an inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector before the tenant moves.		
(4)	The work was carried out by the Local Authority except in one case where the house was disinfested by the owner.		
(5)	To prevent re-infestation, information as to the measures necessary are given at the time of cleansing, and supervision is obtained by re-inspection.		

4. Schools.

During 1938, 799 children were examined. This is an increase of 74 over last year and is coincident with the increase of the population of

Cheshunt. The number of defects discovered numbered 99 and 71 were later reported as having been remedied. Tonsils and adenoids accounted for 33; vision 35; teeth 30. All except 2 of the defective vision were attended to, but only about half of the tonsils and adenoids. The number of defects in the agricultural district of Goffs Oak represents about 20% of the children examined, but only about 11% existed in the urban areas. At one school, around which a large number of new houses has recently been erected, a very noticeable change in the type of children was evident—London born, smaller boned, of nervous and more alert manner. One wonders which will make the happier adult. At one school a “clean teeth” competition has now been in existence for a year, and it has very noticeably increased the children’s interest and pride in their personal cleanliness and clothes. A considerable epidemic of measles prevailed from March till the end of June and depleted the school attendance. An annoying number of cases of scarlet fever dotted the parish in December but the epidemic ceased abruptly at the Christmas school dismissal. This is the second time this has been noticed in the case of scarlet fever. But one is not so fortunate with measles. Only one case of diphtheria has been reported during the last 20 months.

About one-third of the school children have milk in the morning. Only four extra children were presented for report and were granted free milk.

The health and clothing of the scholars is very satisfactory, and the buildings and sanitation are up to standard. The elder of the Goffs Oak children, to relieve the overcrowding which was occurring at that school, are now being sent to the new school in the neighbouring parish of Cuffley. But it occurs to one that this is a very long walk.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Considerable progress was made in the work under the Housing Acts during the year. The erection of forty houses for re-housing of tenants from clearance areas, and eleven houses for the abatement of overcrowding, was completed and the transfer of the families effected.

The number and sizes of these new houses were planned in 1936 to meet the needs of the families in clearance areas or who were overcrowded at that time. In the interval changes of course occurred, some of the families having themselves found suitable alternative accommodation, while on the other hand new cases of overcrowding had arisen. The net result of these changes was that it became possible to re-house a number of families from individual unfit houses who had not previously been catered for.

Some difficulty was experienced in securing the removal of certain families to the new estate. They demurred on the grounds that the new houses were further removed from their places of work and that travelling facilities were inadequate. A few of the overcrowded cases split their families rather than accept the accommodation offered to them. Largely as a result of these re-housing operations the number of overcrowded dwellings at the end of the year was reduced to two. Fifty-two cases of overcrowding involving 396 persons were relieved during the year.

The number of cases of overcrowding revealed by the original survey in 1936 was 64, and since then 35 new cases have been reported. The total number of cases abated since the survey is 97.

Demolition orders were made in respect of four houses during the year, and nine houses were demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.

Of the forty houses in Clearance Areas eight were demolished during the year.

Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, applications were received for financial assistance for the reconditioning of five farm cottages. Grants were made and the specifications of proposed works, which included drainage, sanitary accommodation, water supply, sinks, improved lighting, repairs to walls, floors, roofs, &c., were approved.

The works were in progress at the end of the year.

Housing Statistics.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses the Year :—*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	79
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	79
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	58
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	58
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	24

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	52
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	10
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—</i>	
(a).—	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	4
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(b).—	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	9

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year ...	2
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	19
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	15
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	52
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	396
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are twenty-one cow sheds in the district and at six of these accredited milk is produced under licence from the County Council.

Fifty-seven visits to cowsheds and sixty-four to dairies were made during the year. As a result of informal action a new dairy was constructed and the cowshed improved at Hammond Farm, and the use of the unsatisfactory cowsheds at Brookfield Lane for milk production was discontinued.

In addition to samples taken by the County Council two samples of milk were submitted by this Council for bacteriological examination and both were reported upon as satisfactory.

The following licences were granted by the local authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938 :—

Tuberculin Tested—retailing licence	...	2
Tuberculin Tested—supplementary licence		1
Accredited—supplementary licence	...	1
Pasteurised—dealers retailing licence	...	3
Pasteurised—supplementary licence	...	2

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

During the year sixty-three visits were made to shops and premises (other than slaughter-houses) where food is prepared or exposed for sale.

There are six slaughter-houses in use in the district, four of which are registered and two annually

licensed. Extensive improvements and alterations were carried out during the year at the registered slaughter-house at 38, Crossbrook Street, Waltham Cross.

The number of visits made to slaughter-houses for the purpose of ante and post-mortem inspection of animals was 796 and the total number of animals examined was 3,140.

Meat found to be unfit for food at slaughter-houses and voluntarily surrendered amounted to 2,723 lbs. An analysis of animals inspected and meat condemned is given in the table which follows.

In addition 1 stone of cod fillets and half a case of oranges were surrendered as unsound and unfit for food.

No legal action with respect to meat or slaughter-houses was taken during the year.

One new licence to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, was granted during the year and the number of such licences now in force in this district is twenty-two.

The act requires all animals slaughtered, except sheep, to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument and in this district the Cash Captive Bolt Pistol is in general use.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Number Inspected ...	330	35	143	1694	938
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	11	1	...	...	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	3.33	2.86	...	...	0.64
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	1	...	...	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	34	3	2	...	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	10.30	11.43	1.40	...	6.08

(c) Adulteration, etc.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council. The following information as to the work carried out in Cheshunt during 1938 is supplied by the Chief Inspector, Food and Drugs.

				No. of samples.
Milk	...	...	...	12
Mixed Pickle	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	1
Pepper	...	...	...	1
Brawn	...	...	...	1
Salmon and Shrimp paste	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	1
Orange Squash	...	...	...	1
Lemon Barley	...	...	...	1
Lemon Cheese	...	...	...	1
Indian Chutney	...	...	...	1
Flour	...	...	...	1

One of the samples of milk was found to be 25% deficient in fat and a prosecution was taken in this case. A fine of £1 10s. 6d. including costs was imposed.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried on by County Council Officials.

(e) Nutrition.

There is no special scheme for teaching this subject, except such as is done in the school curriculum or in advice to mothers at the Welfare Centre.

(f) Shell-fish (molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

After a year of freedom an epidemic of measles attacked the district again this year. March and April produced the greatest proportion of the cases, 175 being notified in these two months out of a total of 279. A certain number of cases of scarlet fever appeared throughout the year. But 20 cases out of a total of 38 occurred at the end of the last quarter. But even these sporadic cases ceased when the schools were closed for the Christmas vacation. One records with pleasure the astonishing absence of diphtheria. Only one case has been notified during the past eighteen months. Numerous swabs have been examined but all found negative. Fifteen children were immunized against diphtheria at the Child Welfare Centre.

Antitoxins for diphtheria and scarlet fever are available as usual for the local medical practitioners.

In addition to the 34 local cases of scarlet fever 30 others from outside districts were received and treated at the Isolation Hospital. A considerable number of these latter had a mixed infection of scarlet fever and streptococcal tonsillitis with a second rash. The discharge from hospital on negative swabs has not been continued, as it has not proved infallible and possess no advantages over old time clinical observation.

Influenza was prevalent in the winter months. It was not of a particularly virulent type but caused a lot of sickness. None of the rarer diseases such as anthrax, encephalitis or psittacosis were notified. Judging from the examination of the hearts of practi-

cally all the school children Rheumatic fever is of rare occurrence in this district which is usually regarded as “rheumatic,” *i.e.*, a place in which there is considerable rise and fall of ground water.

The usual notices of sickness amongst school children are received, and acted upon as required.

Disinfection was carried out at 61 dwelling-houses during the year, following infectious illnesses.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease			Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	41	34	0
Diphtheria	...	..	1	1	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	21	0	11
Erysipelas	...	...	7	0	0
Measles	...	...	279	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	4	0	0

Prevention of Blindness.

This year the Hertfordshire County Council adopted a scheme with regard to the prevention of blindness. It contained the following provisions:—

(1) Voluntary notification by medical practitioners for which a fee of 2s. 6d. in respect of each notification is recommended. It is suggested that such a system should be adopted and that all such notifications should be sent direct to the County Medical Officer of Health.

(2) Systematic visiting of persons threatened with blindness to be carried out as at present by the Home Teachers of the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind,

(3) Arrangements for the provision of treatment for the prevention of blindness. Such treatment will be available at special hospitals, special schools, Public Assistance Institutions and special clinics, each case being dealt with under the appropriate Committee. To meet any exceptional case which might arise, it is suggested that the County Medical Officer of Health be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for examination and treatment when necessary. The question of the correct and up-to-date treatment of squint should receive special attention.

(4) It is also suggested that authority should be given to provide financial assistance to secure treatment in special cases.

(5) Consideration to be given to arrangements to be made through lectures at centres and distribution of leaflets to spread information regarding the prevention of blindness.

It is the intention of the County Council also to give tuition and help to the deaf and deaf and dumb.

Tuberculosis.

No case of Tuberculosis in any person engaged in the milk trade, has been notified, nor has it been necessary to compulsorily remove any person to hospital suffering from this disease. Twenty-four cases were notified—one less than last year—and 111 cases are now on the register. Practically all cases are notified—only those who have recently migrated being occasionally omitted. During the last five years 48 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been reported amongst men as against 34 in the case of women.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	1							
1—				1				
5—		1	1	1				
15—	3	2		1		1		
25—	3	2	2					
35—	2	1			2			
45—	1		1		3			
55—	1							
65 and upwards								
Total	11	6	4	3	5	1		

The Registrar-General reports eight deaths from the Respiratory type of tuberculosis (all male) and two (females) from the non-respiratory type, but the extras (4) cannot be allocated to their columns as the copy of the death certificates has not been received.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

				126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminstra- tive County	Cheshunt
Rates per 1,000 Population.							
Births :—							
Live	..	..	..	15·1	15·0	15·4	18·36
Still	..	..	..	0·60	0·65	0·60	0·35
Deaths :—							
All Causes	..	..		11·6	11·7	11·0	10·15
Typhoid and Paraty- phoid fevers		..		0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Smallpox	..	..		0·00	—	0·00	—
Measles	..	..		0·04	0·05	0·03	—
Scarlet fever	..	..		0·01	0·01	0·01	0·06
Whooping Cough		..		0·03	0·03	0·02	—
Diphtheria	..	..		0·07	0·07	0·06	—
Influenza	..	..		0·11	0·10	0·11	—
Notifications :—							
Smallpox	..	.		0·60	0·00	0·00	—
Scarlet fever	..	..		2·41	2·60	2·58	2·24
Diphtheria	..	..		1·58	1·85	1·53	0·06
Enteric fever	..	..		0·03	0·03	0·04	—
Erysipelas	..	..		0·40	0·46	0·39	0·35
Pneumonia	..	..		1·10	1·28	0·98	1·18
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.							
Deaths under one year of age	..	..	..	53	57	51	38·59
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	..	..		5·5	7·8	3·6	3·22
Maternal Mortality :—							
Puerperal Sepsis	..			0·89			—
Others	..	..	..	2·19	Not available		3·22
Total	..	..	..	3·08			3·22
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).							
Maternal Mortality :—							
Puerperal Sepsis	..			0·86			—
Others	..	..	..	2·11	Not available		3·15
Total	..	..	..	2·97			3·15
Notifications :—							
Puerperal fever	..			14·42	18·08	12·51	3·53
Puerperal pyrexia	..						15·46
							12·62

